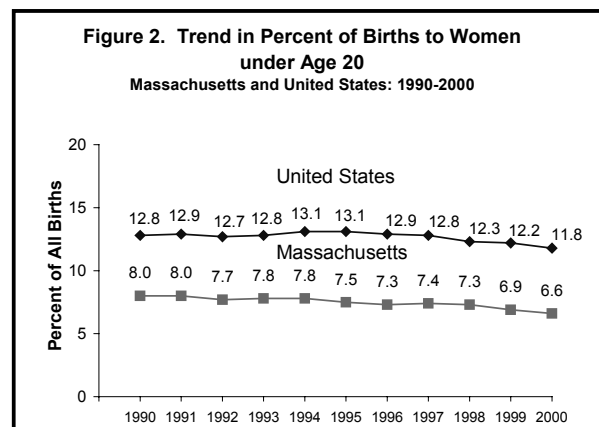
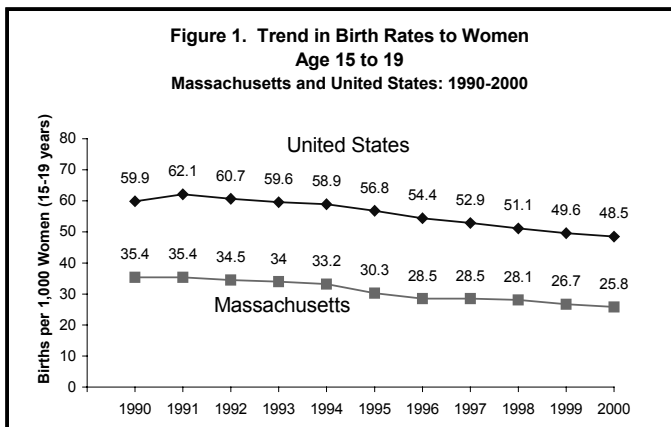


MASSACHUSETTS TEEN BIRTH FACT SHEET

2000

TEEN BIRTH COUNTS AND RATES

- In 2000, there were a total of 5,395 births to Massachusetts resident women under age 20, a decrease of 193 teen births from the previous year.¹
- The 2000 Massachusetts teen birth rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19 years) was 25.8, the lowest recorded in 30 years. As shown in the figure below, this rate was 47% lower than the 2000 national rate (48.5).^{1,2} (Figure 1)
- The teen birth rate in Massachusetts declined 27% between 1990 and 2000, dropping from 35.4 to 25.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19.¹ The national teen birth rate declined 19% during the same period.² (Figure 1)
- In 2000, 6.6% of all births were to teen mothers (less than 20 years of age). The Massachusetts percentage was well below the 2000 national percentage (11.8%).^{1,2} (Figure 2). Puerto Rican women had the highest percentage of teen births (27.0%), followed by Cambodian women (20.7%) and African American women (18.4%).



INFANT MORTALITY RATE

- Among infants born to teen mothers in 1999, 52 died before their first birthday, resulting in an infant mortality rate (IMR) of 9.3 per 1,000 births to teen mothers. The IMR among teen mothers was nearly double the rate among mothers ages 20 and older (4.8). (1999 is the most recent data available for infant mortality by mother's age).¹
- Among teens, the 1999 infant mortality rate varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity. The highest infant mortality rate occurred among births to black non-Hispanic teen mothers (15.3 deaths per 1,000 teen births), followed by births to white non-Hispanic teens (8.9) and Hispanic teens (7.4).¹

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT AND PRETERM DELIVERY

- **The percentage of low birthweight births³ among Massachusetts teen mothers was 9.3% in 2000¹, 33% higher than among births to older mothers (7.0%).**
- **The percentage of low birthweight births³ was lowest among white non-Hispanic teens (7.7%) and highest among black non-Hispanic teens (12.6%).** The percentage of low birthweight births among **Hispanic and Asian teens was 9.8% and 10.2% respectively.**¹
- **In 2000, the percentage of premature deliveries⁴ was slightly higher among teen mothers (8.9%) than among older mothers (8.0%).**¹

PRENATAL CARE

- **In 2000, 66.3% of teen births were to mothers who started prenatal care in the first trimester** compared with 85.0% of women age 20 or older. This represents a slight increase from 1999 (64.7%).¹ Among teen births in 2000, 60.7% were to women who had adequate prenatal care.
- **The percentage of births to teen mothers whose prenatal care was supported through public funds increased from 71.6% in 1999 to 73.3% in 2000.** The percentage of births to older mothers with publicly-funded prenatal care also increased, but remained substantially lower (23.3%).¹

SMOKING

- **In 2000, the percentage of births to teen mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy was more than double the rate among births to adult mothers (19.0% vs. 9.1%).** Between 1990 and 2000, smoking has declined substantially in both age groups: 33% among births to teens and 51% among births to older mothers.¹

PARITY

- Among all teen births in 2000, **16.6% were to mothers who already had other children, a decline of 22% since 1990.**

MARITAL STATUS

- In 2000, **91.3% of teen births were to mothers who were unmarried.** This percentage was higher than the U.S. as a whole, where 79.0% of teen births were to unmarried mothers.^{1,2}

PATERNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Massachusetts has an active program (conducted jointly by the Department of Revenue and Department of Public Health) to promote paternity acknowledgment for out-of-wedlock births. **In-hospital paternity acknowledgement among births to unmarried teens increased over 50% between 1990 and 2000, from 45.5% to 68.6%.**¹

¹ Registry of Vital Records, MDPH, BHRSE, 2002. The complete report, *Adolescent Births, 2000* is available at <http://state.ma.us/dph/pubstats.htm>.

² Martin, J., et al. Births: Final Data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Report; vol. 50 no. 50. National Center for Health Statistics, February 12, 2002.

³ Low birthweight: less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds.

⁴ Preterm delivery: less than 37 completed weeks gestation based on clinical estimate of gestational age.